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Summary Report for NASA Grant NAG 1-1185, Supplement 9  
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American Indian Educational Opportunities Program  
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Summary Report

## **Introduction**

Activities of the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program (AIEOP) at Hampton University for this reporting period included the establishment of a student chapter of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), a move to new office space, hosting events on campus for visiting students from the American Indian Education Program of Oxon Hill, Maryland and Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York, collaboration with the Multicultural Leadership Team at NASA Langley Research Center for a Native American elder to serve as a speaker, participation in Native American conferences and other events, and continuing efforts to recruit and retain American Indian students. See the attached newsletter, *Talks and Thoughts for Friends of the Museum* (fall 1997), which includes an article on the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program.

## **Native American Students**

Effective fall semester 1996, eleven students identified as American Indian through the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program were enrolled at Hampton University. They included two graduate students, seven undergraduate students, and two additional undergraduates in the College of Continuing Education. Two other students, both members of state recognized tribes (Nanticoke-Lenni Lenape and Mashpee Wampanoag), were accepted for admission at Hampton University, effective fall semester 1996, but did not enroll at the school. Efforts to reach these students for follow up purposes were unsuccessful.

Thirteen students identified as American Indian were enrolled at Hampton University during spring semester 1997, an increase of two students over the fall enrollment. They included three graduate students (two counseling majors from state recognized tribes in Virginia and a Northern Cheyenne education major), eight undergraduate students, and two additional undergraduate students in the College of Continuing Education.

Two students in the program, one graduate and one undergraduate, participated in Hampton University's summer school in 1997.

The majority of the American Indian students on campus were from state recognized tribal groups in the region, including representatives of Virginia tribes (Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and Rappahannock). Three other students, including two from Virginia tribal groups, applied for admission effective fall 1997. Two sought admission to the Graduate College and the other,

undergraduate enrollment. The undergraduate, a transfer student from Radford University majoring in computer science, was accepted for admission and began her studies on campus this fall. Another of the applicants began studies in the Graduate College's museum studies program fall 1997 while the remaining individual, a School of Nursing applicant, did not complete the application process.

The total number of American Indian students identified on campus through the program, effective fall 1997, include three graduate students, six undergraduates, and two College of Continuing Education enrollees (also undergraduates). The majority of the students continue to be from state recognized tribal groups in the region, including five from Virginia tribal groups (two Mattaponi, two Pamunkey, and one Rappahannock). One former undergraduate student transferred to another school, the University of Maryland, because Hampton's financial aid office determined that she had not met the criteria for federal support on campus for the term. Through a referral from the Principal Investigator, this student served in a 1997 summer internship in the Washington, D.C. area through a collaborative program provided by the American Indian Science & Engineering Society and the Department of Commerce.

### **Recruitment**

Ongoing recruitment efforts include advertising the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program in publications such as *Pepper Bird Pathways* and *Winds of Change*. The program also hosted visitors from the American Indian Education Program of Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Saturday, December 7, 1996. Approximately twenty visitors, including Piscataway parents and high school students, participated in campus tours and meetings with the Principal Investigator and students along with representatives of NASA Langley Research Center. In addition, the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program is among the featured information segments on an internet web site for Hampton University (<http://www.cs.hamptonu.edu/>). The program, as described on the web site, was instrumental in attracting students from Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York to visit Hampton on June 13, 1997. Eight visitors from that school spent the day on campus and participated in a variety of events, including campus tours, a presentation on opportunities at Langley Research Center, and a student panel discussion.

The relocation of the program's office to the museum in the renovated Huntington building on campus has contributed to an increase in awareness about the program. The new office, now clearly marked and in a more accessible location on campus (on the second floor of the Huntington building), has attracted an increase in visitors. Program brochures are also made available to museum visitors, thus contributing to a wider distribution of information for the enhancement of recruitment efforts.

During this reporting period, the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program was represented at events such as the National Indian

Education Association Conference in Rapid City, SD (October 12-16, 1996), the American Indian Science & Engineering Society Conference in Salt Lake City, UT (November 13-17, 1996), the Virginia Council on Indians Conference (March 14-15, 1997), the Virginia Festival of the Book (March 22, 1997), a heritage day event at the Princess Anne Community Center in Virginia Beach in May 1997, and local and regional pow-wows. Exhibit booths were generally coordinated and/or shared with NASA's Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Program. The Principal Investigator also collaborated with author Arlene Hirschfelder on a workshop devoted to the issue of the stereotyping of American Indians at a conference of the National Council on the Social Studies in Washington, D.C. on November 24, 1996.

As a result of recruitment efforts, inquiries about the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program continue to be received from diverse individuals and organizations, locally as well as regionally and nationally.

### **Retention**

Efforts continue to be made to maintain regular contact with students in the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program via meetings, mailings, and telephone. Further, it is anticipated that having an active AISES student chapter on campus will contribute to recruitment and retention. As before, the Principal Investigator continues to inform students of American Indian cultural and educational events as well as internship and other opportunities.

### **Other Program Activities**

Activities involving program participants included a student panel discussion in connection with "Come Dance with Us," an art exhibition from the Red Cloud Heritage Center on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, sponsored by Hampton University Museum from January 19, 1997 to March 23, 1997.

The Hampton University Student Chapter of AISES, which became a recognized organization on campus in April 1997, was formally approved by the the Board of Directors of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society in August 1997. It is the first campus chapter of AISES in the state of Virginia and the first at a Historically Black College and University. The officers include Kevin Krigsvold (Pumunkey), President; Kelly Davis (Mattaponi), Vice-President; Rafaela Schwan, a graduate student who is also the Coordinator of the Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars Program, Treasurer; and Carrie Campbell (Cherokee), Secretary. The students elected Dr. Paulette F. Molin, Director of the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program, to serve as faculty advisor.

The Chapter has worked on organizational efforts and initiated fundraising activities. In September, students assisted with an exhibit booth at the Langley Air Show. Also in connection with the American Indian Science & Engineering Society, the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program

sponsored graduate student Jamie Ware (Rappahannock) to attend the National AISES Conference in Salt Lake City, where she was elected as Region VII Representative. Ms. Ware was also provided with support to attend an AISES leadership conference in Colorado Springs, CO, from March 27-30, 1997.

In July 1997 the American Indian Educational Opportunities Program, in collaboration with the Multicultural Leadership Team at NASA Langley Research Center, coordinated a visit by Yankton Dakota elder Phil Lane, Sr., a member of the AISES Council of Elders. Mr. Lane, a descendant of historic Hampton students, is the recipient of numerous honors, including a Presidential Citation from former President Lyndon B. Johnson and the Ely S. Parker Award for Indian leadership. Mr. Lane, who was accompanied by his wife Bow, spoke at NASA Langley Research Center on July 8, 1997 and at Hampton University on July 9, 1997. Hampton's portion of the program was videotaped by Cox Communications and televised locally.

An article coauthored by Mary Lou Hultgren and Paulette F. Molin was selected for inclusion in *The Centennial Anthology of North Dakota History*, "a collection of twenty-eight outstanding articles from *North Dakota History*, the quarterly journal published for the past seventy years by the State Historical Society of North Dakota." W. Roger Buffalohead and Paulette F. Molin coauthored "A Nucleus of Civilization: American Indian Families at Hampton Institute in the Late Nineteenth Century," an article published in the *Journal of American Indian Education*. and available April 1997.

Paulette F. Molin also collaborated on biographical sketches and a study guide for the Native American/Hawaiian Women of Hope Project, a poster series featuring twelve contemporary women. This curricula series, sponsored by the Bread and Roses Foundation in New York City and recently featured in *Native Peoples* and other national publications, is now available to schools, colleges, and other organizations across the country.

### **Upcoming Activities**

The Principal Investigator will again teach a course, Topics in American Indian Studies, effective spring semester 1998. The course will be offered through the museum studies program in the Graduate College.

The Principal Investigator will also continue curatorial efforts in connection with the permanent Native American gallery scheduled to be installed in the Hampton University in the fall of 1998. Other activities will include ongoing recruitment and retention activities, efforts to enhance the work of the recently established AISES student chapter, the development of other projects aimed at enhancing the Native American presence at Hampton, and coordination of effort with agencies such as NASA Langley Research Center.